

QUID NOVI

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QUID NOVI

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Editorial

Buncha' Ballooney

by Courtney Retter
(LAW II)

Caution: The following headline may surprise you as much as it surprised me. Ready for it? *The Balloon Boy saga was a hoax*. Falcon Heene was never inside that free-floating helium balloon that cascaded across a Colorado sky. In fact, court documents have revealed that the couple orchestrated the event two weeks prior to the incident and instructed their children to lie to the authorities and media alike. Falcon's parents could be charged with conspiracy, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and attempting to influence a public servant. Oh, and there is also the claim that the Heenes may have violated FAA regulations barring people from flying balloons within 5 miles of an airport. Does anybody else want their October 15th back? Maybe I am being overly sensitive to an event that, in the grand scheme of newsworthy, is trivial and undeserving of my love and attention. In my defense, it has been a rough week of revelations. I also learnt that global warming might be a hoax too.

Paul Hudson, the Climate correspondent for *BBC* news, reported that the warmest year recorded globally was not in 2008.

continued on p.17

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Contributions should also include the **student year** of the contributor.

VENI, VIDI, VACCINATI?

by Joanna Baron (LAW II)

You're nothing, not even an exam number, without your health. I learned this in many hard ways last year when I started studying at the Faculty. And so lately, though my day job remains studying law, I spend every other possible nail-biting minute keeping abreast of H1N1 developments, and at present the rather maudlin debate unfolding over the H1N1 vaccine. As your neighbouring bed of antibodies and local worrywart, I'd like to share a few reflections about the issue of to-vaccinate-or-not.

First of all, be wary of the rhetoric on both the pro- and anti- vaccination camps accusing the other of 'fear mongering'. It was Hobbes who said human nature was predominately characterized by being motivated by fear, and both sides stake their claims accordingly. On the one hand if you Google 'H1N1 vaccine unsafe' on YouTube you will be treated to a veritable carnival of loonies, reporting such objective and reliable information as 'doctors are sending mass e-mails to all their friends telling them the vaccine is dangerous', 'VACCINE CREATORS WILL REFUSE VACCINE', and 'the vaccine causes Guillain-Barré syndrome' (note: Guillain-Barré syn-

drome has been shown to be a complication affecting approximately one or two in one million people who receive the vaccine).

On the other hand, though, one gets the unmistakable feeling that the production and administration of the H1N1 vaccine- poised to be the largest public vaccination in history- is the result of a creepy admixture of public health policy, law, medicine, and politics. For example, the Canadian Medical Association quite soberly critiqued the Canadian government's strategy of delivering the vaccine to the whole population at the same time. It would have been more efficient, they argued, to vaccinate higher-risk groups- individuals with compromised immunity, pregnant women- early. One can see immediately that this idea would be administratively a nightmare and also politically untenable- nobody wants to feel that they're being triaged. As well, failure to provide the vaccine universally might leave the government vulnerable to nightmarish tort claims. (Buying the vaccine from manufacturers poses an element of risk, too: because vaccination is considered as a matter of public importance, contracts between govern-

ments and vaccine manufacturers usually include an indemnity clause that exempts companies if there are problems with the vaccine.)

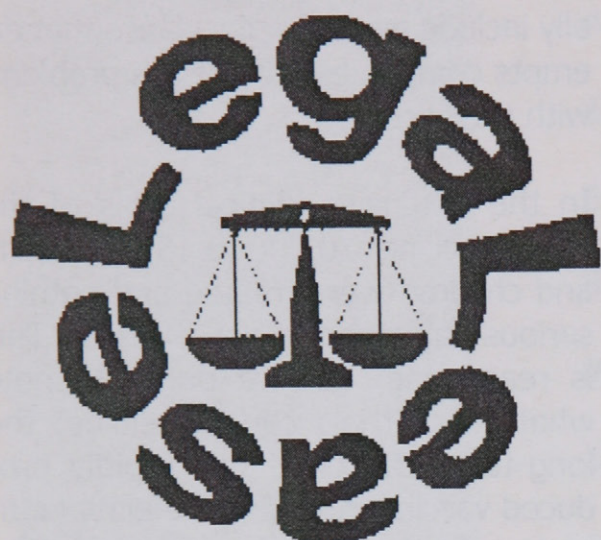
In the extensive clinical trials of the H1N1 vaccine, 10,000 to 15,000 adults and children were treated and nothing serious happened to any of them. This is reassuring, but we ought to note what these trials cannot tell us: the long-term effects of this rapidly produced vaccine, and also the actual efficacy of the vaccine in inducing resistance to the H1N1 virus, which is so worrying to public health officials in part because of its potential to rapidly mutate.

Finally, many have pointed out the parties that stand to profit from pandemic: the media (who is happy whether they're advocating or assailing the vaccine) and dreaded big pharma. The media are likely to be the more suspicious parties: although pharmaceutical companies wield unsettling amounts of power (and GlaxoSmithKline is happy to comply with an order to produce 50 million doses of vaccine), government medical research is nowadays strictly regulated and represents genuine evidence-based recommendations.

But whether we choose to vaccinate or not, we all are being triaged. It's the unavoidable symptom of this social contract we find ourselves in. Studying law together makes it all the more immediate: my decision to vaccinate or not will inevitably take into account my colleagues and professors at the Faculty, some of whom have families, children, and pregnant spouses at home who are connected to our community by germs if nothing else. I hope most of your decisions will as well.



From the LegalEase Collective



Have you ever dreamed of being on the radio? This is your chance. Le-gal-ease. Want to get involved in the production of the radio show? Choose wonderful law-related music? You could simply read pre-written scripts. The point is this: we want you! This can be your chance to a) do something cool in law school; b) learn new media skills (or share pre-existing ones); and c) translate all the 'school-learning' dry ink into waves of experiential auralty.

Our next program theme is prisons. Want to pick up a story? You can just sit in and get a feel for the show. Email us at legalease@ckut.ca if you would like to help out. Ride more than the grade curve, catch the audio wave!

Also, if you or your group is working on something interesting that you'd like us to feature, please shoot us a line. We cover talks, discussions, and weird impromptu events (like the controversial townhall event below). Yes, imagine yourself in (pre) colour. On the waves.

Have a listen to our past show. Perfect for Ipod enjoyment in conjunction with treadmills or stationary bicycles, tricycles or unicycles.

LegalEase McGill - CKUT 90.3 Montreal - Womyn's Voices and Freedoms
<http://www.archive.org/details/LegaleaseMcgill-Ckut90.3Montreal-WomynsVoicesAndFreedoms>

Welcome to Legal Ease - a monthly Montreal-based, produced and broadcasted radio show concerning "The Law". The collective is composed of law students from McGill University.

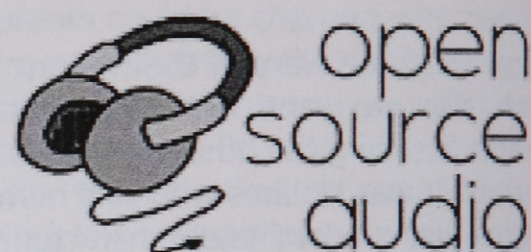
In our first half, we discuss Buffy Sainte-Marie and her legacy. The CIA black-listed 1960s Cree singer has been a strong voice on women's equality, native issues, and peace for half a century. Her recent concert as part of POP Montreal offered an opportunity to reflect on her legacy and play a few songs.

In our second half, LegalEase looks at the recent controversy at McGill. After organizing an event entitled "Echoes of the Holocaust" comparing abortion to



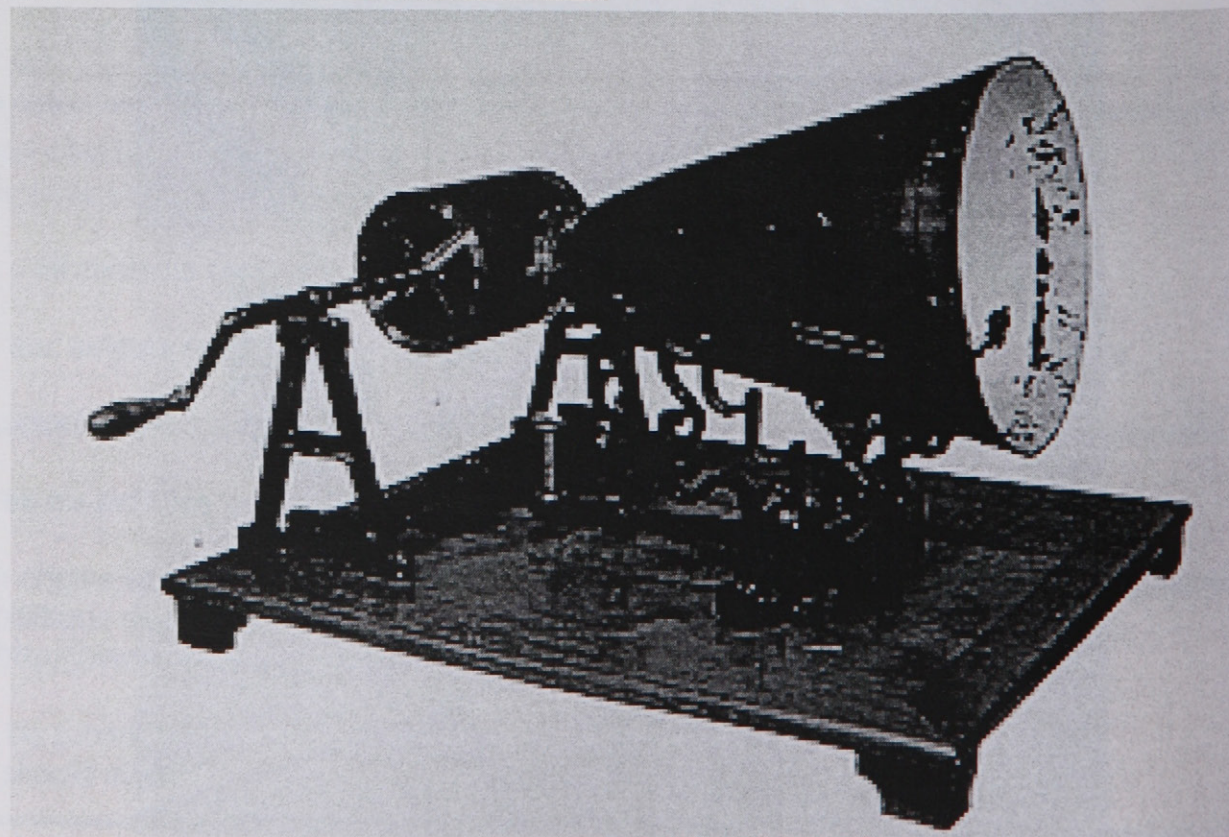
genocide, Choose Life McGill, a SSU club, was subject to criticism and protests by other McGill students. The University administration organized a follow-up townhall on controversial events at McGill. LegalEase contrasts reproductive rights and freedom of speech, while considering some relevant legal issues.

Past Shows:



<http://www.archive.org/details/Legalease-Ckut90.3Montreal-July102009>

<http://www.archive.org/details/Legalease-Ckut90.3Montreal-July312009-JudgesAndImprov>



Listening to the Victims of Crime: Assessing the Victim's Role at Sentencing and Parole

by Julian V. Roberts*

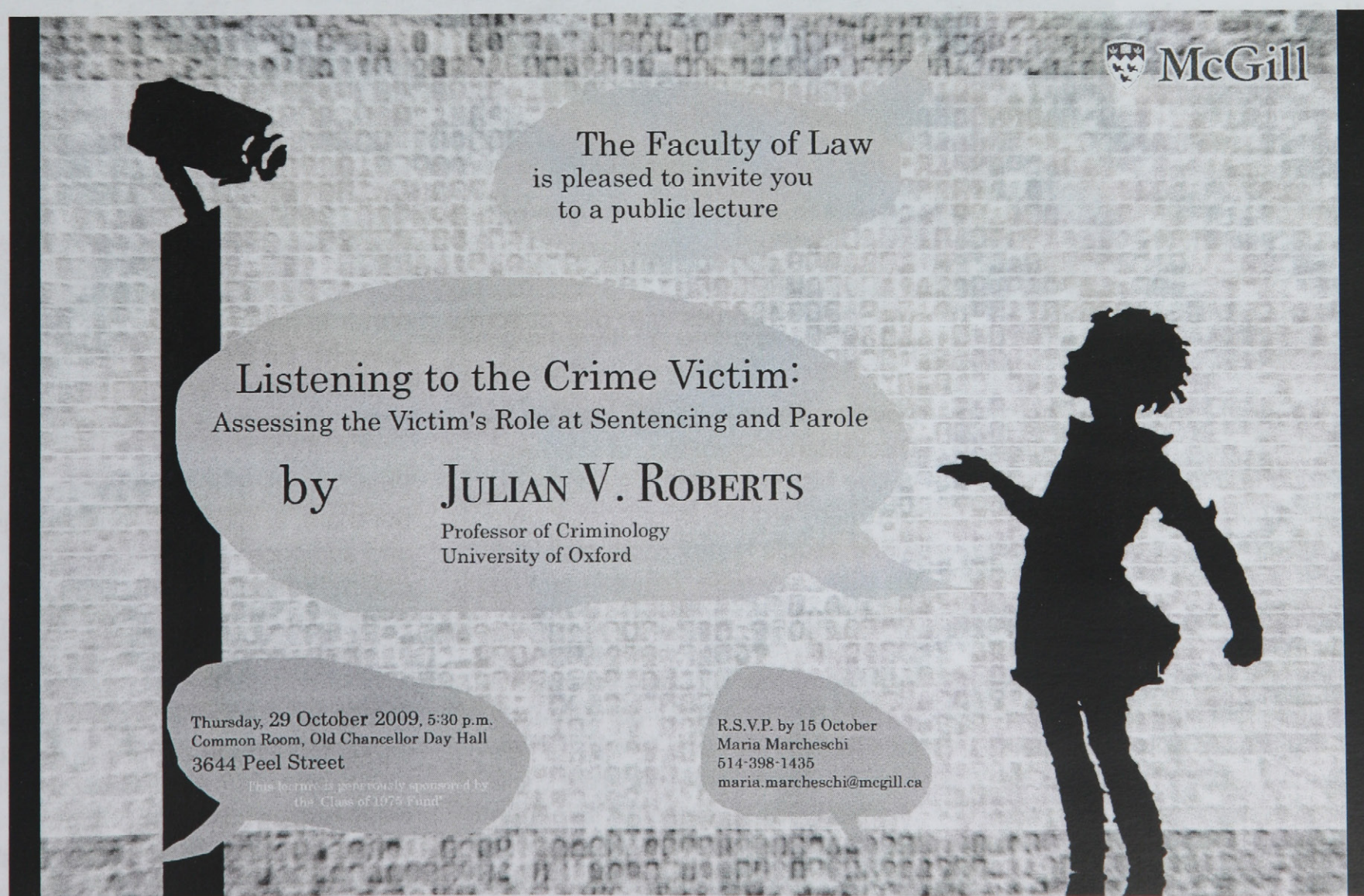
Crime victims have come to play an increasingly important role in the criminal process. One manifestation of this is the proliferation in the use of victim impact statements at sentencing and parole hearings. Across the common law world victims are allowed to submit an impact statement to a sentencing court or parole board. Many US states go further and encourage (or allow) victims to recommend a specific sentence to the court or to express their views on the release of the offender on parole. Research into the use of impact evidence at sentencing suggests that victims can benefit from the experience and most who submit impact statements affirm that they would do so again. However, few victims participate in impact statement regimes, which tend to be poorly administered. There is no systematic evidence that impact statements make


sentencing harsher. There is a growing body of research that suggests that the participation of victims is perceived by judges to be beneficial to the sentencing process. There appears to be less or no justification for allowing victim input at parole as victims seldom possess information relevant to the parole decision. Victim input at corrections would appear to be an example of what has been termed "punitive victim rights" and is inconsistent with sound correctional principles or principles of fundamental justice.

*Julian V. Roberts is a Professor of Criminology in the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. He is Editor in Chief of the *European Journal of Criminology* and Associate Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. He has been a Visiting

Scholar in the Department of Justice Canada, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto and the Catholic University of Leuven. Prior to 1988, Professor Roberts worked for the *Department of Justice Canada*, the *Canadian Sentencing Commission* and the *University of Toronto*. He has authored approximately 150 scholarly articles, book chapters and research reports. He has been qualified as an expert witness in a number of cases and has served as a consultant to many Canadian Government Departments and the Home Office in the United Kingdom.

This lecture is generously sponsored by the 'Class of 1975 Fund.'



 **McGill**

The Faculty of Law
is pleased to invite you
to a public lecture

Listening to the Crime Victim:
Assessing the Victim's Role at Sentencing and Parole

by **JULIAN V. ROBERTS**
Professor of Criminology
University of Oxford

Thursday, 29 October 2009, 5:30 p.m.
Common Room, Old Chancellor Day Hall
3644 Peel Street

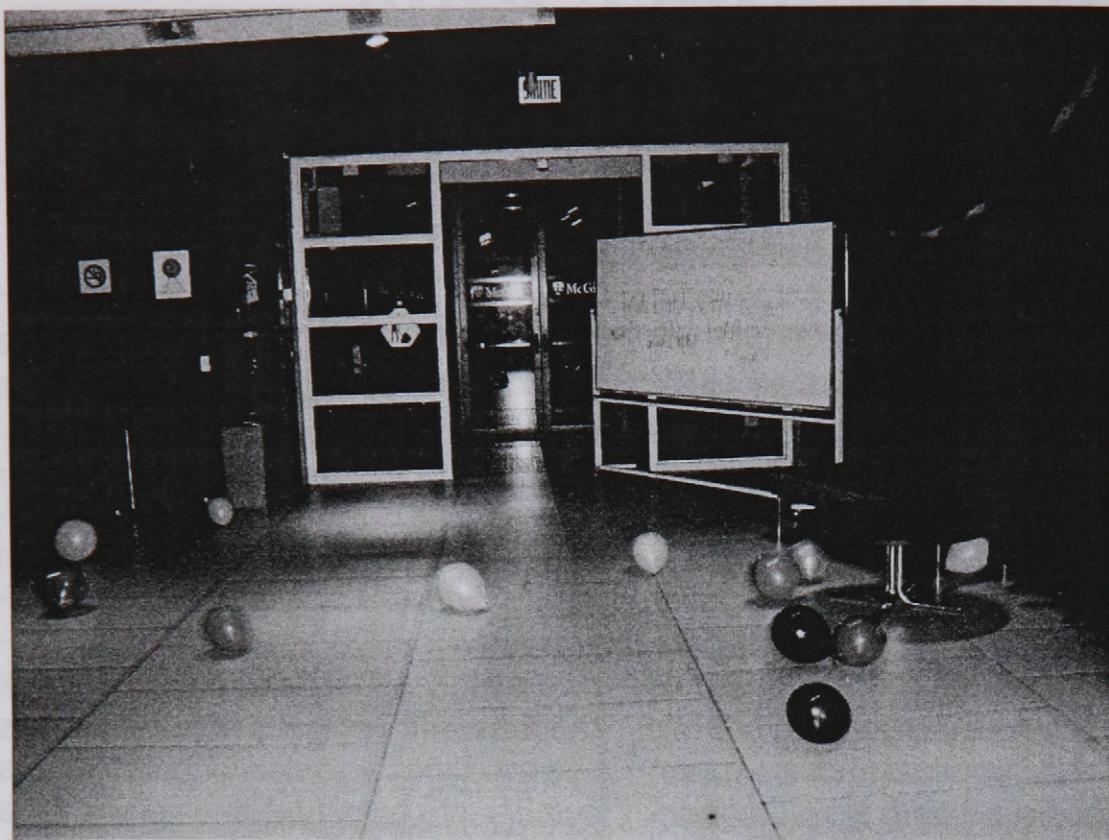
This lecture is generously sponsored by
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R.S.V.P. by 15 October
Maria Marcheschi
514-398-1435
maria.marcheschi@mcgill.ca

DROIT À L'IMAGE

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

THE DEATH OF COFFEEHOUSE?!?!



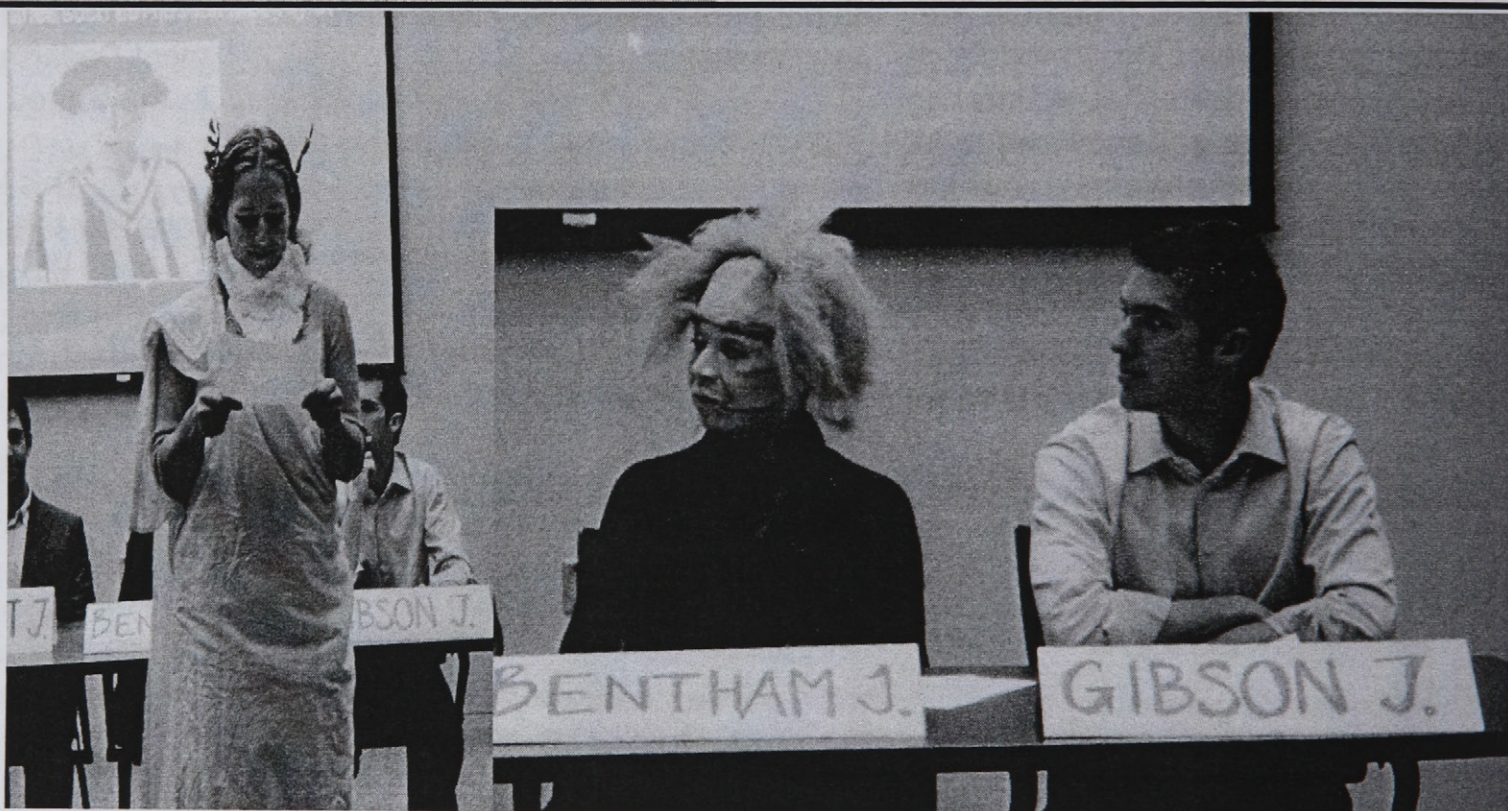
The Quid snapped this photo during last Thursday's coffeehouse around 6pm. The question: where is everybody? Let's not start a trend!

Eventually, a shift in music got the party re-started.

In what one 3L described as the single greatest coffeehouse moment ever, a change in iPods resulted in the playing of Lil Jon and the Eastside Boyz's seminal classic 'Get Low'. Sadly, this print publication can't replicate what was caught on video at this time. No, it's not going on facebook. If you missed this portion of coffeehouse, you also missed a dance party to 'The Thong Song' and NSYNC's 'Tearing Up My Heart'. The Quid hereby suggests to student clubs that their coffeehouses have a musical theme – you know you'd come out for 80s night!

REVIEW: LEGAL METH II PRESENTATIONS!

Well, as promised, The Quid is your one-stop source for coverage of the most dramatic shows-stopping performances of the year – Legal Meth II Presentations!! Given our publication schedule, reviews will appear the week following the presentation, or until such time as we get bored writing them. THIS WEEK'S REVIEWS: Monday, October 19th.



Presentation I: Ghosts of Girl-friends Past!

(The Quid wasn't sure it was going to write reviews when this presentation was occurring and as such does not have good notes, but, loyal readers, we promise to step it up next week).

In this presentation, famed divorce attorney Ivan Nault (played by 2L Ivan Nault) is accused of having engaged in conduct unbecoming a lawyer. Specifically, he is accused of having phone sex with the ex-wife of his client (a role portrayed with gusto and excellence by 2L Suzanne Amiel). The Quid isn't exactly sure, but somehow a

velour fetish comes in to play at some point.

Anywho, Nault is brought before the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar, where his representative (2L Jessie Guttman) argues, in part, that he made people happy (both his client, his client's ex-wife, himself) and really, utilitarianism should carry the day. (Okay, maybe this wasn't exactly his argument, but The Quid was distracted by Ms. Amiel's performance).

À un moment donné, Aristote (Mari Maimets, 2L) se présenta. Elle mérite un prix pour meilleur déguisement, mais le Quid se demande si elle va

porter la même chose pour l'Halloween? En tout cas, des juges sont là pour déterminer si M. Nault pourrait rester un membre de Barreau.

Stand-out performances were given by Bentham, J, Gibson, J, and Pluralist, J., and audience members (notably Chiara Fish and Viviane Lentz) who advocated on behalf of Mr. Nault remaining as a member of the Bar.

The Quid isn't going to spoil the ending by telling you about the double disbarment, but it will say:

Best Acting: Suzanne Amiel / Best Costume: Mari Maimets / Best Make-Up: Annamaria Enenajor

DROIT À L'IMAGE

PRESENTATION II: THE SIMPLE LIFE: PARIS AND NICOLE BECOME LAWYERS

Paris & Nicole are back and ready to become lawyers! Nicole (Carrie Finlay) suggests that having done everything (and everyone) else, it's time for the troublesome two-some to enter the legal profession. Paris (Charlie Feldman) hears that a 'bar' is involved is game. The two begin their journey - Nicole attends CEGEP ("Duh, I like younger men") and Paris attends UofT (Insert joke here). The ladies graduate and attempt to gain admission to the Bar. When asked why they want to become lawyers, Nicole explains, "Well it all started when I saw this movie... Legally Blonde... I said to myself ... Reese Witherspoon is, like, so fashionable, and smart. I want a job where I can be respected while I

shop - not like Pretty Woman!" As for Paris, "I actually realized I wanted to be a lawyer several years ago... I starred in a movie, which my boyfriend directed, produced, filmed



and also acted in... I never expected it to be so big, but like everyone has seen it, and I didn't make a single penny! I thought for sure I must have some rights!"

AHH! I NEED A COSTUME!!

The Quid knows some of you have spent weeks perfecting your Halloween costumes - you keeners, read no further. However, for the slackers out there who have yet to come up with a costume, Droit à l'image has some ideas for quick, easy, and last-minute legal costumes.

LORD DENNING

Easy enough - wear something you would wear to a cricket match. Or, put on a kilt. Or, just put your hair into rollers and leave them in.

THE THIN SKULL RULE

Put some Band-Aids all over your face and in your hair. Voila c'est si simple! For a plus, smear some face blood on your face (marker, ketchup, borrow a friend's lipstick).

JUSTICE

Just wear dark sunglasses -she is blind after all! Or, umm, duct-tape a scale (or two) to yourself. People are sure to get that.

PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL

Go to the dollar store and get a sword and shield. Remember to use only the shield!

DONOGHUE V STEVENSON

Charlie Feldman (LAW II)

After being rejected for not meeting the Good Character requirement, the ladies fight back and sue the "haters" from the Bar (played by Brian Miller and Ryan Schwartz) in the Courtroom of Justice Sara Ross. The ladies win their case, and achieve their dreams. We catch up again with the ladies many years later when Paris is trying to figure out what the most DIVA legal job could be. Nicole suggests academe, which helps Paris to realize that, in fact, teaching legal meth is her true calling.

Pink Boa - \$2

Tiara - \$2.50

After the presentation hearing Me. Lamed use the phrase "This diva..." - PRICELESS!

Best Acting - Carrie Finlay / Best Cameo - Courtney Retter as the Bailiff / Worst Acting: Charlie Feldman as Paris Hilton (as another 2L commented: it's not acting if you just do what you do normally!).

Well, you could go as the bottle or the ginger beer, but really, all you have to do is wear whatever you'd like and then SCREAM whenever you get a drink. Someone's bound to ask if a snail was left in there.

A LAW SUIT

Just wear a suit and tape legal words on it.

THE REASONABLE PERSON

Just, umm, wear something, uhh, reasonable!

(The Quid hopes to have pictures of your costumes next week - smile!)

Dear Reader,

Disons et mes deux cents reviennent la semaine prochaine. Last week's 'mes deux cents' elicited a fair amount of feedback. While some students felt that the comments therein were "mean", "bitchy" and overly negative, others felt the section was "hilarious", or, as more than one student commented, "I'm glad to know I'm not the only one thinking that!" While the goal of the section is to reflect what's being said and thought at the faculty (as expressed to me) last week's tone was unfortunately negative. While The Quid can't make everyone smile, it, and the faculty, would certainly benefit from having more lighthearted comments floating around. If you have something to share for next week (either overheard or a personal commentary) feel free to pass it along: quid.charlie@gmail.com

Living in a World of Crooked Lamps

by Mathieu Kissin (LAW III)

Crooked lamps. We've all seen them, whether over at a friend's or family or even in your professor's office. In fact, you most likely own one. I own four. Looking back, my purchases must have been motivated by the attractive price to lighting/esthetic ratio. The lamp is pictured standing straight on the box yet after your assembly, it ends up crooked. If this was any other product, this might set off some alarm bells, perhaps even some indignation, an oath to return the lamp to the store AND cuss out one of the employees for something over which they have no control. But not with these lamps. Why? Well, first of all, you assembled it. When you assemble products, there is always a very real risk that you may have done so incorrectly. We tend to either ignore the installation instructions or simply fail to understand them. We therefore are likely to assume that we are the reason why our lamp is getting its lean on. Even with my 4 lamps, the common denominator is me and it is therefore entirely plausible that I am the weak link. But this brings me back to my original point. We've all seen crooked lamps. And so after some consideration, I have decided that it is unlikely that this is a result of my hanging out with a social circle of incompetent product assemblers.

So why do we keep buying crooked lamps? The obvious response is their cheap cost and their light-producing credentials appear solid. On the other hand, I think it is part of an underlying current which is increasingly pervasive in many aspects of our current society: growing tolerance for mediocrity and incompetence. Ran your bank or company into the ground by making extremely poor business decisions and displaying a complete lack of foresight? Here, have a bailout; we're not really sure why but we have faith you'll do a better job this time.

As a Leaf fan, I am very familiar with mediocrity and incompetence. Supporting a franchise which has not won a title

since the league expanded from 6 franchises, has for years fielded a team of underachieving over-the-hill players, prioritized business over winning, charges the most exorbitant ticket prices in the league and blacks out many of its main supporters by broadcasting a number of games on its own specialty channel, defies any logic. Yet every game is sold out and there is a 25 year waiting list for season tickets.

Politics is another arena where mediocrity and incompetence is tolerated. Look no further than George Bush and Barack Obama. To paraphrase 21st century orator Katt Williams, George Bush screwed up ev-ery-thang in his time as president: the economy, health care (he can't take full credit for this one), foreign policy, the sanctity of the rule of law and respect for individual rights and the before and aftermath of Hurricane

Katrina. He was so bad, Obama won the Nobel Prize primarily based on the fact that he was not Bush and that he hadn't yet done anything, truly personifying the mantra of "no government is better than bad government". Keep in mind though, Bush served 2 terms. In Italy, the Prime Minister throughout his many terms has been dogged by allegations of corruption, has made a habit of making inappropriate comments and was most recently accused of throwing lavish drug-fuelled parties with complementary prostitutes. In Canada, we have re-elected a prime minister who nobody seems to really like all that much seemingly because a) there was nobody else b) we're satisfied knowing that as a minority government, there is little risk that he'll do anything too crazy. The current UN Secretary General was selected precisely because there was little risk of him doing anything. He has really embraced this task. When was the last time you heard about Ban Ki-Moon (...he is the current UN Secretary General?

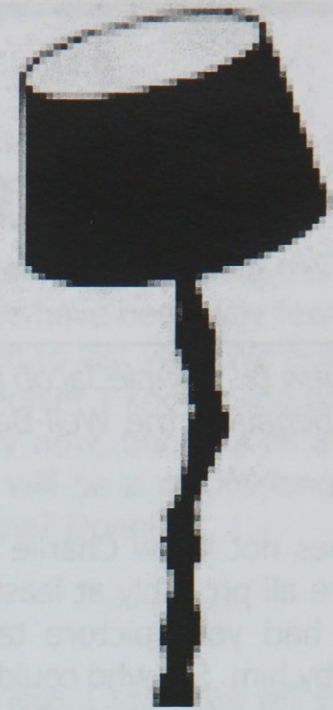
That we continue to tolerate such incompetence and mediocrity is perhaps understandable. After all, many of us are lazy and have our own issues and responsibilities to handle. The lamp is cheap so we buy it. Wal-Mart offers low-low prices which are unbeatable, so we tolerate their blatant transgressions of its workers' rights. But surely, someone paying much more money would have higher standards? One need look no further than international commercial arbitration. Large international companies hire lawyers to prepare contracts which are often so poorly drafted that their interpretation can have major financial repercussions. Doctrinal sources and case law seemingly takes for granted a level of *inkompetenz-inkompetenz*. However, while they move on to discuss issues of enforceability I am still struck by what seems to be some fairly significant questions: who are these lawyers? How much are they paid? Do they still have jobs? Did they all find jobs as meteorologists? I am not sure



how to process this information. On the one hand, as someone interested in commercial arbitration, I feel like perhaps it might be easier to succeed in this field of law, as the expectations are seemingly quite low. On the other hand, should I want to be working with these people?

I have a theory on how we reached this conundrum. I am a big fan of green pens, partly because green is my favourite colour and partly because during my undergrad I could easily locate my exam within a large pile. When I used to live with my sister, a high school teacher, she would always steal my green pens for her marking. Obviously

displeased with this development, I inquired why she needed green pens to mark. She informed me that marking in red was no longer acceptable, as it could cause irreparable damage to a student's confidence and psyche and ruin him for life. So there you have it. You coddle kids with soft green penned-remarks, and you end up with crooked lamps.



Shame on Human Rights Interns, Kipling...maybe Facebook

by Brett Hodgins (LAW II)

The arguments in Annamaria Enenajor's recent column in the Quid ("A Second Look at McGill's Intrepid Global Citizens") were thoughtful, insightful, and nuanced, and I would like to second them. McGill Law's human rights interns should be ashamed of themselves. By foregoing summer employment to travel to Africa in an attempt to learn about other cultures while alleviating the suffering of those less fortunate than themselves, these individuals have indeed become "cog[s] in the wheel of foreign exploitation." And as the article suggests, anyone who agrees with Rudyard Kipling's call to combat famine and disease must also share his paternalistic racism. The Human Rights Internship program may as well make Kipling's "White Man's Burden" its anthem (even though, of the most recent interns, 7 of 9 were women and not all were white).

What's even more impressive is that the article's long, rambling insight is all based on a single piece of evidence: Facebook photos of McGill interns with African children. (Well, it also suggested that the interns feel they are "sav[ing] Africans from their own brutality", but because this statement is not sourced,

there's no way to tell which of the interns said this – as they undoubtedly did – so I'll exclude it.) It's quite simple: as we all know, students are always very sparing with photographs on Facebook. Therefore, by going out of their way to take pictures of Africans while they're in Africa, interns are "objectifying" them (or maybe invading their privacy – this isn't clear). If they were in Europe, these students would never have taken pictures of white European "locals" in this way – such as the ones taken by a law student of anonymous Romanian peasants on display around Matteo's.

The Human Rights Internship program by its nature focuses on reinforcing paternalistic characterisations of Africa. That's why they send interns not only to Uganda and Tanzania, but to Cambodia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Philippines, New York, Toronto, and Montreal. Why can't our human rights interns see that they "reproduce power inequalities" and "represent the priorities and dictates of Empire"? For example, the internship program works with the Refugee Law Project in Uganda, which provides legal assistance, information, and support to refugees in that country

while pushing for the reform of refugee law and policy. It's like the Belgian Congo all over again! Don't be fooled by the fact that 24 of the 27 permanent staff listed on the Refugee Law Project's website are African – they're all neo-Kiplings over at the Makerere University Faculty of Law.

Notwithstanding achievements for refugees, by being (probably) white wealthy Westerners and interacting with black Africans, and then having the gall to take photographs of this coexistence, human rights interns remind us all of colonialism – and thus perpetuate it. As the column last week concludes, the best solution by far is to let this terrible historical legacy continue to bind us; young (approximately) white interns must never go to Africa or interact with Africans, and must certainly not take photographs if they do. The rest of us must stop "praising the presence of every McGill intern in Africa." With any luck they'll stop going entirely.

Interview:

Integration at the Law Faculty

by Joannie Jacob (LAW II)

** Interview by Joannie Jacob (2nd year) on the behalf of the Well-Being Committee*

Who does not know Charlie Feldman? You have all probably at least heard of him or had your picture taken/been stalked by him. So, who could be better to talk about integration at the faculty?

Perhaps this topic seems like it would be better suited for a September issue; but I think that integration is an issue we need to think about year round, not just in the first weeks of law school, and even more so when exams and assignments tend to start monopolizing our minds.

In the following, you will find his answers to serious and not-so-serious questions about integration in the faculty, which should be interesting to students in all years (and at the very least, provide some "comic relief").

1- Pourquoi bien s'intégrer au sein de la faculté est important selon toi?

C'est important parce que sinon on ne va pas vous choisir pour un entrevue comme ceci :-). In all seriousness, I think it's important because there is a lot more to school (and life) than listening to the Prof, taking notes, and spending all night with your coursepacks and Code. There are certainly some wonderful people here and all sorts of interesting things going on - I think getting involved leads to a better experience overall.

2- Many students would think it is too late to get to know their colleagues well and make new friends. What would you tell them?

I'd like to think it's always possible, but for sure it takes effort - and, to an extent, personality. Not everyone is outgoing. Granted, maybe I crept out a

few classmates last year by striking up conversation when I saw them eating alone at Matteos, but I had some great conversations and found out things about classmates I otherwise wouldn't have known!

I would suggest attending coffeehouse, an event sponsored by a student group, or something like the Halloween party - depending on interest. I'm pretty convinced there's something here for everybody - even people who claim to hate law and law school :-)

3- Il y a beaucoup d'évènements à la faculté et tout le monde doit choisir. Mais y a t'il des "must" auquel tous devraient assister?

SKIT NITE c'est un 'must' absolu!! (Il faut noter que je suis sur le comité en train de planifier SkitNite mais cela n'influence aucunement ce choix). Ce semestre c'est la fête d'Halloween - les déguisements sont toujours formidables.

4- As-tu des conseils en particulier pour les étudiants en échange?

This is a more difficult question. I think it depends in part on how long the student will be here and what he or she wants to do. For example, someone new to Montreal and here for only one semester might get more out of exploring the city than trying to integrate fully into the Faculty. I think this is where student groups play a large role - while it might be harder for a newcomer to meet people in classes where everyone knows each other, student groups provide a way to meet people with similar interests. I also think there should be a big Clubs Day in the spring for the benefit of not only exchange students, but for students who, in the fall, were unsure of the workload and what they could take on (esp. true in first year).

5- Do you have advice for first year students in particular?

Well, overall, I'd say don't stress! But, on the integration question I'd say that first year is a great time to get to know one another, especially because class schedules are the same. At the time I'm answering this we don't know who your class presidents will be, but I hope they plan many events at which you can meet each other. If they don't, bug them to do so!

6- Some say that there is a "divide" between francophone and anglophone students at the faculty; what do you think about that?

I'm not sure 'divide' is quite the right word, but for sure there should be better integration between the two language groups. Being new to Québec, I was amazed at how bilingual my francophone classmates were, but surprised that these second-language skills weren't matched on the anglo side. I think this will change with the addition of things like the French aptitude test for new applicants.

I've found that sometimes all it takes is trying to start a conversation. I wasn't



sure how this would work at first, but I found that my francophone classmates were okay with me making mistakes and would help me out where needed. It works the other way too, and I think the exchange is great. I don't think it's because people try to associate exclusively with their language group, but that people feel like they might make mistakes or be in a situation where they may not understand what the other person is saying. I think practice makes perfect, and who better to practice with than native speakers?

7- Crois-tu qu'il y a assez de fraternisation entre les étudiants de différentes années (1L, 2L, 3L, 4L)?

Non. C'est difficile parce que les horaires de chacun sont différents, et bien que les événements pour tous les étudiants existent (comme les coffee-house) on a besoin de variété. Je sais que l'AED fait un effort, comme l'organ-

isation de l'activité de cueillette des pommes, mais on a besoin d'étudiants intéressés pour que l'on puisse faire ce genre d'activité.

I also think better advertisement of student events (even from clubs) would help – not everyone has Facebook and sometimes posters get buried. It would be great if people remembered to send stuff to notice board – or even put things in the *Quid*!

8- Apparently you are aware of all the gossip and rumors at the Faculty... how do you keep yourself in the loop?

Not true! Well, okay, being the sober one at law events you see and hear a lot. Plus, people tell me things - perhaps they shouldn't! Really, at this Faculty all you have to do is eat lunch downstairs once a week and you'll be caught up. Some watch Entertainment Tonight, I just chill at Matteos.

9- You seem to be at every event and party; do you have a twin?!

I've actually been slacking this semester – or there have been way fewer parties compared to last year. We need to step it up, people! I know everyone is getting busy now, but let's all agree that January will be a month-long party fiesta. Done? Done!

On that note, I hope this will encourage all of you to get out there and make an effort to meet and learn more about the wonderful individuals that are your colleagues. People in this faculty are great resources and may end up being of great help in your classes, in your job-hunting adventures, not to mention an attentive ear when you need a little encouragement. Go hug someone new now! :)

For your iPod!

The Quid wants this Faculty to be up on the latest beats... so... here's what to hear!

For the week ending October 31, 2009

CANADIAN HOT 100

- 1) Sexy Chick – David Guetta ft. Akon
- 2) 3 – Britney Spears
- 3) Party in the U.S.A. – Miley Cyrus
- 4) Evacuate the Dancefloor – Cascada
- 5) Down – Jay Sean ft. Lil Wayne
- 6) I Gotta Feeling – Black Eyed Peas
- 7) Whatcha Say – Jason DeRulo
- 8) Cha Ching – Hedley
- 9) You Belong With Me – Taylor Swift
- 10) Meet Me Halfway – Black Eyed Peas
- 11) Haven't Met You Yet – Michael Buble
- 12) Run This Town – Jay-Z, Rihanna & Kanye West
- 13) Fireflies – Owl City
- 14) Use Somebody – Kings of Leon
- 15) G-Get Up and Dance – Faber Drive
- 16) Paparazzi – Lady Gaga
- 17) Already Gone – Kelly Clarkson
- 18) Sweet Dreams – Beyonce
- 19) TiK ToK – Ke\$ha
- 20) Fire Burning – Sean Kingston
- 21) Throw Ya Hands Up – Stereos
- 22) Funhouse – Pink
- 23) Good Girls Go Bad – Cobra

Starshp Ft. Leighton Meester

24) Who Says – John Mayer

25) Empire State of Mind – Jay-Z & Alicia Keys

US - Hip Hop, R&B

- 1) Pretty Wings – Maxwell
- 2) Forever – Drake ft. Kanye West, Lil Wayne & Eminem
- 3) Wasted – Gucci Mane ft. Plies
- 4) Run This Town - Jay-Z, Rihanna & Kanye West
- 5) Break Up – Mario ft. Gucci Mane & Sean Garrett

US - Country

- 1) Only You Can Love Me This Way – Keith Urban
- 2) Toes – Zac Brown Band
- 3) Gettin' You Home – Chris Young
- 4) Welcome to the Future – Brad Paisley
- 5) Cowboy Cassanova – Carrie Underwood

US - Rock

- 1) Check My Brain – Alice in Chains
- 2) Wheels – Foo Fighters

3) Jars – Chevelle

4) I Will Not Bow – Breaking Benjamin

5) Break – Three Days Grace

US – Dance / Club

- 1) Release Me – Agnes
- 2) Million Dollar Bill – Whitney Houston
- 3) Paparazzi – Lady Gaga
- 4) Did You See Me Coming? – Pet Shop Boys
- 5) This Time Baby – Eddie X & Niki Haris

CKOI – Super Décompte Franco

- 1) C'est Moi – Marie-Mai
- 2) Caméra Vidéo – Les Trois Accords
- 3) Bombay – Kodiak
- 4) Laisse-Moi Pas Guérir – Eric Lapointe
- 5) Probleme de Blonde – Stage Lacroix
- 6) Besoin D'amour – Kevin Parent
- 7) Nouveau Monde – Peya
- 8) Les Président Danse Autrement – Yann Perrau
- 9) En Attendant Le Soleil – Vallières
- 10) La Comete – Les Colocs

Compiled by: Charlie Feldman

50 States in 50 seconds

by Chase Bartlét (LAW I)

ROAD TRIP: Cruisin' the USA

50 states is a lot. You should see them all ASAP before they're gone. I'm serious. Consider this a handy and brief guidebook that will steer you on your way through the United States.

Let's start in **New England**. In the rest of the country, New England is accused of arrogant snobbery, spreading social change prematurely, and adding even fancier names to their private schools. In retaliation, they ignore us. **Maine**. Our whitest state, Maine actually belongs to New Brunswick, and due to its status as being outside the country, no one knows anything else about it. Next: **New Hampshire**. The state motto is "Live Free or Die" and is taken very seriously. New Hampshire operates as a totalitarian state. It is also not to be confused with **Vermont**, gastronomically known for maple syrup, hippy ice cream, and delicious cheese curds. A hop away, we find **Massachusetts**, widely known among conservatives to be the home of Satan. Some feel the state's leftist liberalism will soon cause the state to crash into **New York**. We love New York, for the state boasts the nation's largest city, guido population, and concentration of rude, abrasive pricks. The richest suburbs of New York City compromise the entirety of **Connecticut**. It has been alleged that proof of sufficient funds is often required at many checkpoints to enter the state. **Rhode Island** is just next door, but unfortunately, nothing more can be said as only references to Quahog come to mind at the present time.

Well, folks, It's time to dress down a bit as we enter the mid-Atlantic. You may wish to hold your breath and cover your ears as you pass the smokestacks and accents of **New Jersey**, the nation's most densely populated attempt at civilization, ironically called "The Garden State." Next we find **Pennsylvania**, often perceived by neighbours to be the socially awkward and somewhat backwards cousin of the region. Philadelphia

does, however, boast a delicious artery-clogging cheese steak. **Delaware** will come and go within 43 seconds and even faster when traffic dissipates, so refrain from blinking. **Maryland** comes next. Lock your doors in Baltimore and do not make eye contact with anyone. However, the crab is delicious and will tide you over well until you make it to DC. DC is not a state and will not be discussed, though it is awesome. Next: **Virginia**. Virginia is for lovers, according to its tourism campaign. I will leave all ironic jokes to you. The state is beautiful and deserves its due praise. "Wild **West Virginia**," when its existence is recalled, is usually associated with inbreeds with names like "Bobo," coal mines, and anti-wild boredom. I cannot in good conscience downplay any of these assumptions. **North Carolina** is beautiful, the accents still coherent, and the tobacco fresh. Visit Winston-Salem to see the corporate headquarters of the world's largest cancer-promoters.

Now we come to the south. Do not make fun. Do not denounce religion. Do not bring up politics. In sum: do not do a lot of things. Be quiet, turn your air conditioner on, and off you go first into **South Carolina**. South Carolina holds the title of the first US state to secede from the nation in part by accusing the government of immorally denouncing slavery. **Georgia** comes next, and as the nation's largest outdoor sauna, people appear lethargic and relaxed, yet surprisingly obese despite the sweating. Ask for some sweet tea. Atlanta does offer some modern amenities. **Florida** proudly serves as America's wang and hurricane testing ground. Recent lack of funding has slowed the project, and most Floridians have enjoyed a few stable years, homes unscathed. English remains the official language in **Alabama**, but do not be fooled: most Yanks will fail to understand most of what is said and it is best kept that way. **Mississippi** proudly boasts the nation's highest number of steamboat captains with one of the lowest per capita in-

comes. On a positive note, the state is frequently referenced thanks to American-style counting, "One Mississippi, two Mississippi, etc." **Louisiana** serves as the decadent French capital of the United States. For your visiting pleasure, most of the state is currently above water; but hurry; this offer won't last! **Arkansas**, with its unfortunate name and spelling, is also unfortunately home to the Toad Suck Fair, Wal-Mart, and the Duggar family, a fundamentalist Baptist family whose 18 children's names all start with "J," even Jinger. **Tennessee** will appear next, where Elvis has been incorporated into virtually every facet of society. Residents request out-of-towners make as big a fool of themselves as possible. **Kentucky**, which insists it is in fact part of the South, is known as the Bluegrass State, though it offers neither blue grass nor free fried chicken. Horse races and racial self-segregation are abundant, however.

Next we find the Midwest. Prepare to be depressed. **Ohio** and **Michigan** have nearly resorted to martial law as the auto industry has collapsed. Detroit will be left alone; its fragile ego cannot handle another blow. **Indiana** recently purchased and voted a giraffe into legislative office to attract new visitors. **Illinois** currently runs the largest corruption ring in government. Elections are now held every three weeks. Wind recently blew Chicago into Lake Michigan, perhaps the chief reason why the 2016 Olympics went instead to Rio. **Wisconsin** is worth visiting for their accents. Milwaukee continues to compete for the title as the nation's fattest city. **Minnesota**, don't you know now, recently adopted Finnish as the state language, and boasts the largest bran muffin museum in the world. Yummy; you betcha! Hot dish potlucks are also featured every Thursday night at Lena and Lars Svenfeld's home in St. Cloud. **North** and **South Dakota** exist, but we are not yet sure why. Stay tuned. **Iowa** is home to the nation's largest supply of corn subsidies. The state is diversifying agriculture, as only 99.37%

of the state is now covered in cornfields, down .05% from 2007. **Nebraska** comes next. I'm not even trying; even the cleverest wit couldn't make Nebraska any less boring. **Missouri** is known as the "Show-Me" state. Schedule at *least* 5 minutes for residents to give you a proper tour of *everything* the state has to show you. **Kansas**, the Sunflower State, makes a living from corn, wheat, sunflowers, and *Wizard of Oz* paraphernalia. **Oklahoma** was once the nation's dishonourable dumping ground of Native Americans. Today, it serves as the Midwest's tornado dumping ground, which are, we shall say, rather frequent. **Texas** is the world's most hated state and has no region. Southerners refuse to claim it; Midwesterners scorn it, and Mexico has expressed its own reservations. The governor recently threatened to secede, but promptly stopped as other states offered to pay the costs and form the petitions.

The West: though referred to as "fly-over country" by bitter Easterners, the region insists it has plenty to offer beyond Western movies and snow ripe for skiing 8 months out of the year. **Montana** is Big Sky country, though the sky is reportedly of the same size there.

Speed limits only recently came into effect, so do drive with caution. **Wyoming** is presumably a figment of the imagination. No one lives there to prove otherwise, and no one else has bothered to check. **Colorado**, the union's most beloved state, enjoys the nation's highest average elevation and its fittest, most attractive residents. It is rumoured that God owns ski property in Aspen, but this cannot be independently confirmed. **New Mexico**, colloquially known as Old Mexico, is under confidential Martian command in Roswell. No more information is available at this time. In **Arizona**, average annual temperatures range from 65-86C, coincidentally mirroring the dominant age bracket of Phoenix's residents. Substantial rainfall was last measured on October 23, 2002 at 2 millimetres, thus offering a lushness not seen since the Jurassic Period. Next we cross the heavily fortified moral border into **Utah**. Because of its unique placement within the time and space continuum, Utah operates 50 years back in time. This is especially pertinent if you are a woman, of colour, or gay. Non-Mormons will be appropriately charged a "Heathen Tax." **Idaho** is Utah in disguise, but only 25 years back in time. Therefore, women and people of colour can breathe more

easily. Potatoes are used as currency. **Washington** enjoys 347 days of rain per year, rivalling the Amazon. The city is addicted to Starbucks coffee and slow, sparse access to Wi-Fi. **Oregon** prides itself as a liberal haven, but in reality is just a more conservative, greyer version of Washington. The coast is nice. **California**, though broke and poised to crack off into the Pacific, continues to boast cultural and social dominance all from Hollywood: perhaps underscoring why and where America went wrong.

Finally, we reach the forgotten states. You can drive to **Alaska**, provided you bring a passport through BC. There, enjoy sunlight 3 weeks each year, dinner chez Palin, and superb views of Russia. You likely will not reach **Hawaii** by car, though the islands promise a chance to ride whales, hug dolphins, eat aloha, and get lei'd.

So Canadians, convert some currency (seriously; it's a good time) and head on south. Support the quasi-Canadians, and God bless the USA - because we're sure gonna need it.



Enfin une campagne électorale !

de Vincent Ranger (LAW II)

Eh oui ! Je suis peut-être le seul au Québec, mais je suis content que nous soyons en campagne électorale en ce moment. La plupart d'entre vous doivent avoir la même opinion que le reste du Québec : on est tanné des élections. Effectivement, nous avons été bien servis durant les dernières années. Au provincial et au fédéral, non seulement les campagnes se suivent à un rythme effarant, mais on dirait qu'elles sont de moins en moins intéressantes. Aucune surprise, aucune nouveauté, aucun défi. On sait déjà qu'est-ce que les partis vont dire, vont faire... et on sait déjà pour qui on va voter. Qui a déjà réellement suivi une campagne provinciale pour décider pour qui il allait voter ? Probablement pas grand monde.

Tandis que là, à Montréal, on a droit à une campagne digne de ce nom ! Nous avons le choix entre trois candidats qui ont des personnalités vraiment différentes. Plusieurs diront que les programmes des partis se ressemblent : c'est faux. Entre la proposition de faire

venir l'Exposition universelle à Montréal, celle de construire 30 km de tramway, de geler les taxes et tarifs ou de continuer le Quartier des spectacles, il y en a pour tous les goûts. Il suffit de prendre le temps de s'y intéresser un peu. C'est certain que la campagne actuelle ressemble à l'occasion à un téléroman bien planifié : scandales, rebondissement, aveux ! Mais s'il faut un peu de spectacle pour intéresser les gens à la politique, j'accepte. Tant que cela ne diminue pas les discussions sur le fond. La question de l'éthique est un enjeu important à Montréal et il devient important de se demander qui sera la meilleure personne pour mettre fin au régime de corruption qui règne dans la ville ?

Alors ne sombrons pas dans le cynisme et intéressons nous à celui ou celle qui dirigerait notre ville. Richard Bergeron ? Louise Harel ? Gérald Tremblay ?

À vous de choisir ! Moi, je compte bien utiliser la semaine qui reste pour décider qui aura mon vote !

Parlant d'élections, disons que celles de la semaine dernière pour les postes de représentant à la Faculté n'était pas fortes fortes. Je suis à l'école tous les jours de la semaine et des huit candidats, je n'en ai croisé qu'un seul venu me convaincre de voter pour lui (et il s'agissait d'un de mes amis...). Aucun discours dans les classes, aucune visibilité... J'ai dû décider pour qui voter en regardant leur face devant la boîte de scrutin. Je sais pas combien de personnes ont voté, mais je soupçonne que ce n'est pas beaucoup. Surtout qu'en plus le bureau de vote n'ouvrait qu'à partir de 12h30...

Le Quid félicite les gagnants des élections pour le conseil de la faculté ainsi que les nouveaux présidents de première année!

Conseil de la faculté

Olivier Cournoyer Boutin

Michael Finley

Cindy Kou

Francois Le Moine

Ilana Ludwin

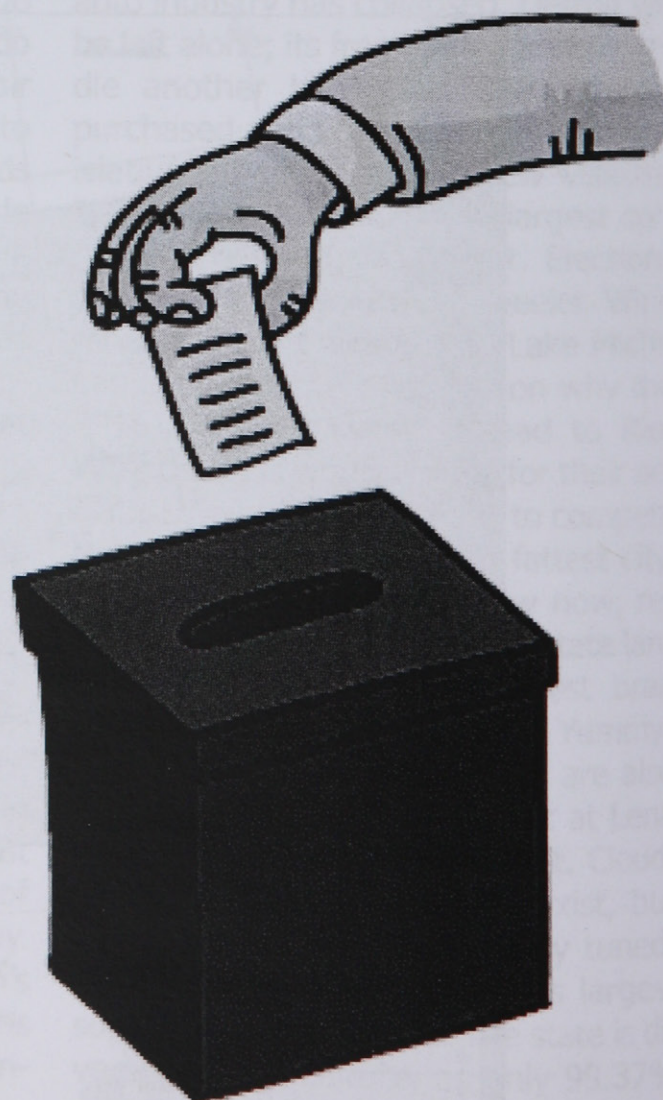
Présidents de classe (1re année)

Michael Shortt

Hélène Vallée

Referendum

The student body has voted **YES** to a 2.50\$ fee per semester to fund the McGill Journal of Health and Law.



Humbled by Seeing the Bigger Point

by Anthony N. Morgan (LAW II)

Often when I share with a classmate my interest in development in the Caribbean, the response is an off the cuff remark about beaches, Bob Marley, cannibus and/or dread-locks, that is intended to be a joke. While I wince on the inside when it happens, on the outside I usually just play along with the joke simply because I have grown tired of the explaining what I believe in this day in age should not need to be explained to my ever well-meaning, McGill Law classmates: that there are so many more layers to the region, its people and their experience than the caricatured, Sandals Beaches Vacation media projections that they have become comfortable with accepting as the whole story of this dynamic region which, you should all know, has a deeply fascinating, complex, varied and vibrant history, culture and contemporary reality.

Though I walk away from such encounters being slightly annoyed and offended at the recurrent unidimensionalization of the people of which I am descendant, what always keeps me from getting too upset is the self-recentering effect of remembering that not too long ago, I did the very same thing when thinking about my people from the Caribbean and what needs to be done to better their lives and the conditions in the region. What made me stop this was one particular exchange I had two years ago with one of my closest friends, also of Caribbean heritage. The story is as follows:

I had recently read an article about how some development policies of various Caribbean governments were failing to better the conditions of living of the rural poor in the region. In response, I thought up my own extravagant though sophisticated policies and strategies that in my mind I was sure would address the issue most effectively. Later, while having lunch with my similarly Caribbeanist friends in a popular student cafe, I decided to share my "Morgan Plan". The reaction? I received

a somewhat public shaming in the form of an ego-jarring intellectual flogging.

Despite being in front of good friends of mine, one friend in particular who knew all about my love and interest in the Caribbean and my good intentions for the region and its development, did not hesitate to lambast me in that student cafe. In variously configured and cogent arguments, he attacked my suggestions saying that their underlying assumptions were "culturally imperialistic", as I was implying that those in the Caribbean value, want and live for all of the exact same things we do in Canada and if they had all such things, every person in the region would be happy and fulfilled.

In words and ways which I wished were whispered in a private conversation, my friend strongly advised that I rethink my whole approach and do much more to consider the voice, perspective and agency of the Caribbean's rural poor before devising elaborate policy schemes on their behalf.

I walked away from that exchange feeling, personally attacked, offended, ganged-up on (though only one friend actually spoke) and quite upset at the fact that my friend had seemingly failed to see that I meant well or to consider that "cultural imperialism" factored no where in my intentions for the people I was sincerely interested in helping. After all, they were "my people"...

What caused me to get over that initial emotional response was the realization that to focus on my feelings was to miss the point- a second time. So what was the point? The point was that it's Caribbean people living in the region and their experience, ideas, interests, needs and desires that should be first, foremost and above all in shaping considerations regarding development in the area. I came up with my foolish policy agenda because I failed to realize this. Focusing exclusively on and making a big issue of how hurt I was when

my friend pointed out this inexcusable oversight, was to make the initial mistake a second time. That initial mistake being disregarding the equal dignity and humanity of Caribbean people and putting myself, my feelings, my perspective, my assumptions and my intentions, before those of the very people I purported to be interested in assisting in the first place.

In other words, I realized that I was playing the "boo-hoo, cry for me" victim, though it was I who was the initial victimizer through my ignorant prescriptions for and suppositions about Caribbean people. This realization allowed me to wipe away my tears and swallow quite the splice of a much needed humble pie. We all need a slice from time to time...

Anyway, herein lies the ultimate justice in and justness of my friend's public and what I could have considered over-the-top reaction to my actions: I may not have liked the way my friend called me out in front of the group (in fact wanted to run from the cafe when he really started to dig his rhetorical nails into my position). However, being figuratively slapped out of ignorance had a net positive effect in that it ultimately forced me to put myself aside and finally give primacy to the lived experience, agency and perspective of Caribbean people living in the region. Consequently, I am now much more suited to be of most effective use to them and I am better able to do what I first set out to do after reading the article that began this chain of perspective-altering events: actually help some of the people in the Caribbean. Moreover, I am now significantly disinclined to overlook and minimize the human dignity inherent in all individuals, especially those who are a part of groups whose lived experience is much different from my own, not just in different parts of the world, but including my peers and profs at McGill Law. In sum, I am now a much better global citizen.

Shortly after the student cafe incident and my epiphanic moment, I penned what could be interpreted as an attempted guilt-alleviating creative mea culpa to give voice and experience to the urban poor in the Caribbean and all other people of the 2/3 World silenced by the narcissism of people from the West and their well-meaning, though often deeply damaging attempts at being of some assistance through their colonization-reinforcing escapades (often through, as it happens, such things as elite university-sponsored internships).

I hope that you enjoy:

Mr intellectual please let me be. I am fine where i am and live quite comfortably,

You gain grandiose ideas by making study of me.

You tell me my life is shit and must be saved from punishing poverty.

But i have my health and strength and my loving family,

But this you just dismiss and say its much more that i need.

You're so quick to point to all my "problems", you pen papers on what i lack,

But your people live in wealth yet are all depressed and fat.

Your children cannot pay attention for longer than 10 seconds,

And your schools are full of fools who only learn to play with weapons.

You have your nice roads and fancy cars, but tell me this,

Aren't your streets full of teen-killing alcoholics?

I love my wife and daughter, they know their beauty is divine,

But your women crazily cut their faces to rid them of their lines.

Each night I sit at home and laugh hap-

pily with my own,

But I hear your men avoid the den locked in rooms watching porno.

When I cook I make for mine and whoever might have need,

But I hear you feast in mansions, leaving on the street those too poor to feed.

My neighbours bug me yes, sometimes odd, but not so bad,

But I would never think to harm them because they were from a darker clan.

Though my wife and me may disagree, we work towards solutions,

But where you're from, it really quite dumb, for everything, divorce is the solution!

Even this root i've chewed since a boy of two, and have never known a "common cold",

But often your fancy cures are found to harm, recalled and can't be sold.

So please mr. Intellectual, let me be let me be,

I have got everything i need, praise be to the Almighty.

Despite what you think, your study of me makes you look like quite the fool,

Because here we have a saying, make your bed before you leave for school.

You say you're interested and care, but really, that's hard to believe,

Would you still "care" for me if it didn't boost your bloody CV?

I think not, i think not, so bug off, go find a bed of rocks,

I live my life with leisure but you, you're enslaved by clocks.

We've had enough talk, I really must go to tend to my fields,

But grab your pad and pen I have 1 last

thing to reveal.

It is you and your own back in your licentious nations,

Who are in the real danger what with threats of nukes and environmental degradation.

These 2 things alone can destroy the world or at least turn it on its head,

if you don't do something soon my life to you will one day look like club med.

So go home, go home, I implore you, please,

Cause here we are fulfilled, we laugh and live with ease.

In fact you and your fanciful studies garner quite the ridicule,

Cause it's not us who are in trouble, it's your feet that are covered in the camel's stool.

(end)

Let me be clear in noting that the opinion expressed above is solely that of the author and doesn't necessarily reflect the views of BLSAM, BLSAC or any of their members. I would also like to stress that if anyone feels personally offended by my remarks, note that this is not my intention. In response, I suggest that you contact and speak with me directly and/or (as has always been your right) that you feel free to submit a response to the Quid. Taking such an open, honest and direct approach is more constructive than creating a situation wherein I or any one of my peers gets a message that suggests that someone needs to get certain individuals and/or group(s) to tone it down because of the bad PR that is being created for small minority organizations at the Faculty and also beware of the resulting negative effects this could have for "us". My understanding is that "Notions of Citizenship" is largely about fostering constructive and collective dialogue, not tapping into divisive forces that harm the name of this world-class law school which is, of course, all of ours.

continued from p.2

Rather, it was in 1998. For the last 11 years our Earth has not observed any increase in global temperatures. This is despite the fact that carbon dioxide, the man-made gas presumed to be responsible for warming our planet, is continuing to rise. *What in the world is going on?* According to research conducted by Professor Don Easterbrook from Western Washington University, ocean and global temperatures are correlated. The oceans, he claims, warm and cool cyclically. And the most important one, for instance, is the Pacific decadal oscillation (PDO). In the 1980s and 1990s, the PDO, in addition to global temperatures, were warmer than average. Recently, however, the PDO has been starting to cool down. Global warming skeptics are patting their backs. I mean, this is what they have been saying all along: if man is heating up our world, he isn't nearly as hot as nature.

Not everyone, however, is pleased with the fact that the debate on global warming is far from concluded. Rex Murphy, a *Globe and Mail* columnist, stated the following in response to the BBC report: "I picture Al Gore reaching for the holy Evian water and loosing a jeremiad: "Out, apostates! By my hemp underwear, and in the name of Kyoto and the IPCC, by the heel and toe of the carbon footprint, I declare thee excommunicate and anathema. In the name of bicycle paths, twisty bulbs, windmills and slow-flush toilets, carbon offsets and compost heaps, I declare the BBC heretical." The BBC report came out on Tuesday October 13, 2009. Merely a week and a half later, the *Montreal Gazette* launched a new column whereby Albert Nerenberg intends to examine the "practical, personal and weird sides of climate change." In his first column, Nerenberg cautions that we need to make love, not emissions: "we [only] have a matter of years to rein in carbon dioxide" or face its potentially disastrous consequences. Umm. *Did he not read the BBC report?* Or am I, like Nerenberg, a victim of a confusing news empire where the people are ruled by contradictory and inconsistent information. My point: I am finding it increasingly difficult to be-

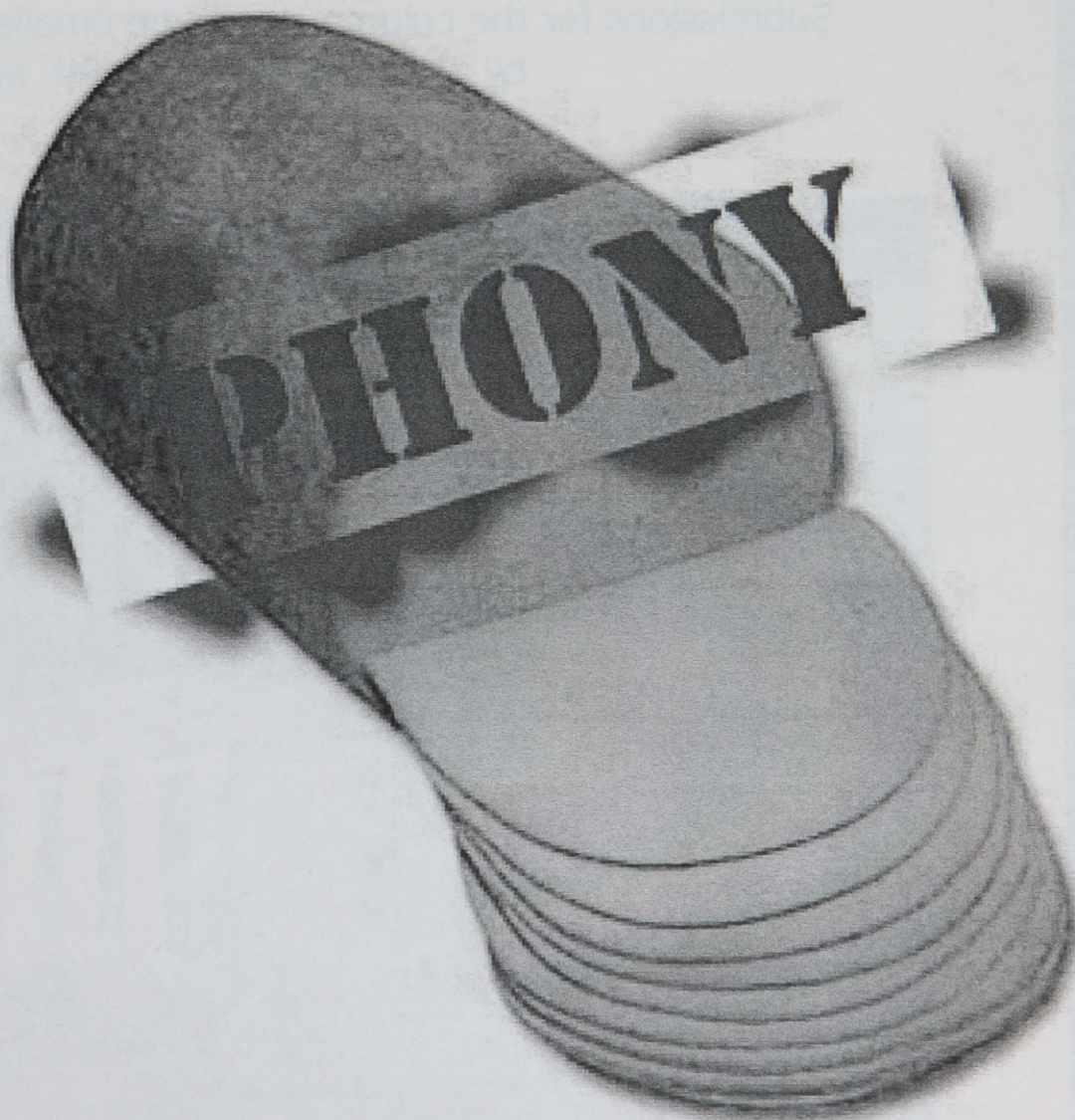
come an enlightened reader. The only thing I am sure of, as I conclude my week of newsreading, is that CO² may or may not be the main culprit of our impending Armageddon. This essentially means that I am no more cognizant of global warming today, then when I was when I first read Hudson's report. Now that is an inconvenient truth.

Note: Paul Hudson's report can be retrieved at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8299079.stm>

Rex Murphy's article can be retrieved at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/michael-ignatieff-should-think-outside-the-green-box/article1327161/>



What an exciting time to be a law student...

On Thursday October 22, 2009, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Bill 104, the Quebec law restricting access to English schools, is unconstitutional.

Justice Louis LeBel argued in the decision that, "the legislative response seemed excessive in relation to the seriousness of the identified problem and its impact on school clientele and, potentially, on the situation of the French language in Quebec."

In honor of this ruling, the *Quid Novi* proposes launching *What Say You?*, a column presenting student and faculty reactions, opinions and personal experiences relating to the recent SCC decision. The goal of the column will be to get people talking about the ruling. Its ultimate success will depend on your participation.

Submissions for the column should be emailed to quid.law@mcgill.ca
by Thursday October 29th at 5 p.m.



